Winter 2022

DONKEY HEAVEN





THE SUMMER DAYS

We have been very busy on Saturdays since we re-opened to visitors, booking through Eventbrite. This has enabled us to monitor numbers as parking is limited. The Donkeys have certainly perked up and look forward to Saturdays and all the crowds of visitors with scoops of food.

Our shop has new mugs with pictures of most of our Donkeys that are available to adopt online and they have proved very popular. Many of our favourite shop stock items are still available and it's a very busy place on Saturday afternoons. We have a coffee trailer which comes along most Saturdays and visitors have had a selection of quality teas, coffees and cakes to choose from and enjoy them in the lovely surroundings at the Sanctuary. The tables in the Courtyard prove to be a popular place to sit and relax with refreshments.

During the week we have continued to upgrade and improve the Donkeys facilities and are currently installing 4 new large field shelters. They are mobile and will be placed in the larger fields to accommodate more donkeys and thus take the pressure from the sheds in the main yard. Some of the older shelters are having general repair work done to damage caused by wear and tear but also the damage done by some of the Donkeys who have developed a taste for the wooden planks and boards that the shelters are made from.

Due to the long hot dry Summer we have had to feed more than usual. There was a lack of grass in some of the paddocks so we put out bales of straw to help fill stomachs and also fed hay.



WATER WORKS

New rules have meant an upgrade in the water pipes and troughs in some parts of the Sanctuary. Water pipes have to be buried and other adaptations have had to be made to meet the standards required by our water supply company. Most of the work has been completed with only a days work to finish the job.


Cocoa

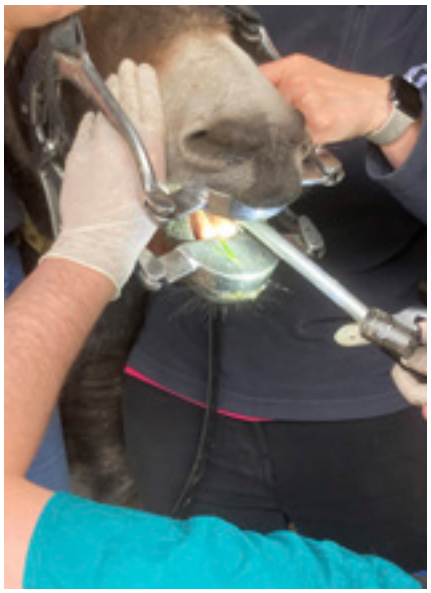

Dillon

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have been kept very busy collecting, rehabilitating and re-homing Donkeys this year. In the spring we travelled to Oban for 3 Jennys and that was followed by 2 old fellows from East Lothian, then 5 from the Biggar area and 2 single Donkeys from separate homes. Our fields fairly filled up hence highlighting the need for new field shelters that were mentioned earlier. Usually we get mostly older Donkeys coming to us but this year its been mainly young donkeys.

We were very sad to lose Cocoa in August, she was a favourite with visitors and a huge character in many different ways. She had several serious problems which resulted in us taking the decision on Vets advice to give her a peaceful and dignified end.

September saw us having to make an equally hard decision about Dillon. He was 21 years old and had developed an acute liver problem causing him to lose his appetite and have no energy. We tried many remedies and supplementary additives to try a restart his appetite but in the end his peace and comfort became our concern and we had to let him go. Very sad and difficult days indeed.



CATCHING UP ON TASKS AFTER COVID

During Covid Dentistry was classed as routine, non essential work by vets. Normally we get the Donkeys' teeth checked once a year so this has meant that the Donkeys' teeth were overdue an examination. In the early summer, three days were allocated by the vets and staff to tackle the very big and physically tiring task of checking all the Donkeys' teeth. Thankfully we found that about three quarters of our Donkeys didn't require much work doing. There were a few sharp points and the odd extraction to deal with but mostly there were very few problems.



THANK YOU TO OREGON TIMBER

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Oregon Timber who kindly donated £1000 to the Sanctuary. This will help us continue to care for and look after all the Donkeys.

Pictured here, left to right, is Christopher (Donkey Sanctuary Volunteer), Martha (Donkey), and Philip McTaggart (Oregon Timber).

